

Traffic Re-routed as Work Speeds Ahead on Big MWD Reservoir

Approximately 150 men and tons of heavy-duty machinery are working three shifts 24 hours a day on the Palos Verdes reservoir for the Metropolitan Water District. Narbonne avenue between Roosevelt highway and Palos Verdes Drive north is closed and traffic in the vicinity of the million-dollar project is being routed over Cayuga avenue and Western or to the west via Rolling Hills Drive (Crenshaw).

As the huge dirt-moving and tamping machines snort and crawl over the rolling terrain of the 80-acre site, the storage reservoir is beginning to shape up in the eyes of the engineers. But as visitors to the site may well wonder what the final appearance of the earth-embanked and gunite-lined man-made lake will be like.

Safe As a Washbasin
It will be several months before a sightseer—such as The Herald representative who toured the project Monday with N. F. Crossley, resident engineer—can get much of an idea what the reservoir will look like.

One thing is certain, however, and that is that the storage basin will be as safe as a washbasin so far as any danger of inundating the surrounding countryside. There will be no "dams" as such, because the embankments will be mostly below the general level of the surrounding hillsides. The earth, rich in prehistoric fossils as the whole Palos Verdes area is, is being scooped out by massive machines. Large tanks of goats-foot solidifiers weighing a mere 29,000 pounds.

Traffic will be re-routed in the vicinity of the project for several months while the main intake to the reservoir is placed. After this is finished, Narbonne will be closed south of Palos Verdes Drive to eventually be re-routed around the edge of the storage basin that will contain 1,000 acre-feet of water. When it is placed in service, about the latter part of August, because it is arousing antagonism without foundation," City Councilman John V. Murray declared at the municipal board session Tuesday night.

Fairland at Night
The basin is generally egg-shaped, shut off with earth-filled embankment, the largest of which will be a flood retaining wall at the lower end. The artificial lake will be approximately a half-mile long and a quarter-mile wide. It will be fenced with special care. Men are now in place to keep debris and storm drain water from the surrounding hillsides from entering.

At night, from overlooking vantage points, the scene at the reservoir site presents a fairyland atmosphere as men and machines, dwarfed by distance, continue work in areas picked out by glimmering lights. And down by the sea are the hundreds of lights twinkling from Los Angeles harbor.

Elena Extension Request of Board by Highway Group

Formal request for allocation of funds for the improvement of the Elena extension is being filed with the board of supervisors this week, from the Southwest District Highways' association.

The association forwarded to the supervisors a copy of a resolution adopted at a recent meeting pointing out the necessity for the work, now that the 1,000-acre storage reservoir is under construction for the Metropolitan Water district in the path of Narbonne avenue through the Palos Verdes hills.

The resolution also recited that funds for the improvement had been set up in the county budget two years ago, but had been omitted by the supervisors for other county road work.

\$120,000 U. S. Funds Deposited for Two S. C. Housing Projects

Federal funds amounting to \$120,000 have been deposited in a Los Angeles bank for use in construction of low income housing projects at Palos Verdes and in Lomita. The money was deposited by the U. S. Housing Administration, according to Isadore B. Dockweiler, member of the County Housing Authority.

Of this amount, \$60,000 is earmarked for the project near Lomita. General plans for the two projects have been approved by Washington officials in Lomita, and in North Hollywood. Final details of plans are now being prepared and their approval is expected in time to begin construction at both loca-

Hit-Run Driver Admits Injury to Girl Dec. 20

On his appearance in Superior Court to answer a charge of hit-and-run driving, William H. Butterworth, 38, of 4934 Hickman Drive, North Torrance, pled guilty to critically injuring DeVona Boardman, 18, of 1808 Hawthorne boulevard, and asked for probation.

The court set March 21 for a hearing on his plea and the time to pass sentence. Butterworth was arrested Dec. 21, one day after Miss Boardman was struck down on Hawthorne avenue while returning to her home. The driver was in a program at the Perry school.

He pled not guilty to the charge when given preliminary hearing before City Judge Robert Young. In the opinion of the local court, the circumstantial evidence linked him with the accident and he was bound over to the Superior Court on \$1,000 bail Dec. 28.

Rumors of MWD Jobs Declared Unfounded

"Someone is spreading reports that there should be 80 or 90 Torrance men employed on the reservoir the Metropolitan Water District is building in the Palos Verdes hills and that the reports are not working on the job is because members of the council are not cooperative. This malicious gossip should be brought to a halt because it is arousing antagonism without foundation," City Councilman John V. Murray declared at the municipal board session Tuesday night.

Mayor William H. Tolson, City Clerk A. H. Bartlett and Leonard Young, acting city engineer, spoke in turn to allay such reports. They said that every effort has been made to keep the city's quota of only one percent of working men on M. W. D. projects. However, right now less than 200 men are now employed on District jobs, consequently the Torrance number is greatly reduced.

Another point brought out by Clerk Bartlett was that the reservoir project is a contract job and the contractor is hiring only A. F. of L. labor. Three local men are now employed on this job, according to Leonard Young, who also said that the District is not hiring any new men but giving the work to those who hold M. W. D. cards.

Civic Leaders of Four Cities Seek Western Extension

Ten local residents have been invited to attend a meeting next Monday afternoon, March 9, at the Chamber of Commerce when civic leaders of San Pedro, Lomita and Harbor City will confer with Ray C. Baldwin, chairman of the County Regional Planning Commission, on a program of action leading to the improvement and extension of Western avenue.

This project heads the list of highway developments on the calendar of the Harbor District Chambers of Commerce for the year. The local men urged to attend the session are Mayor William H. Tolson, Alden Smith, James E. Hitecock, R. R. Smith, Grover C. Whyte, Leonard Young, R. C. Buxton, and Ben J. Jacob Koeh and Rev. Ben Lingentetter.

Plans in June. Plans that have been approved show the type of house to be constructed and the estimated cost. It was necessary for the housing authority to cut down the unit cost before Washington officials gave their approval. At first the estimated cost per unit was approximately \$45,000, but it has now been reduced to about \$2,600 for the average.

At present it is planned to build for housing 500 families at each of the two projects. The county authority hopes to increase this to 800 families at each project, Dockweiler stated.

PACELLI IS CHOSEN NEW POPE TODAY

Catholics throught the world this morning were advised by every known means of communication, from radio to telegraph, that a new Pope was elected on the third ballot at 5:30 p. m. Rome time, by the College of Cardinals within the Vatican. The 262nd Pope is Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli, born a simple middle-class Roman, March 2, 1856. He at once assumed the name Pius XII.

Choice of Cardinal Pacelli, who was Papal Secretary of State and as such visited the U. S. in 1934, is regarded by American Catholics as particularly favorable in view of his knowledge of post-war. He has held important posts as titular Archbishop of Berlin in Bavaria from 1917 to 1920. Then he was transferred to Sardinia as Bishop in 1925 and in 1925 negotiated an important concordat with the German government.

Twelve years' successful diplomatic work in Germany, the late Pope Pius XI called Pacelli back to Rome and after elevating him to the See of Perugia in December, 1929, gave him the most important post of the Catholic Church: that of Papal Secretary of State.

Legal Textbook Author He traveled to Buenos Aires as pontifical legate to the Eucharistic Congress of 1934. He also was sent by Pius XI to Lourdes, France in April, 1935, for the ceremony of the closing of the Holy Year.

After Pacelli was appointed to the Papal post, the church experienced difficult times in Germany, Spain, Mexico, and Soviet Russia. But the frail secretary never wavered. He remained possible he journeyed to Switzerland for vacations. There, high in the dry, bracing air, Cardinal Pacelli gathered strength anew to face the arduous problems arising.

The Cardinal strictly observes a carefully planned diet. He never smokes. His residence is in a modest apartment in the Vatican. A member of many academies and important congregations, Pacelli is also an author.

11 FILE FOR 15TH DIST. L. A. RACE

Eleven candidates including incumbent councilman, Franklin P. Buyer, will seek the 15th district Los Angeles city councilman seat in the April 4 primary election. The district embraces San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City, Watts, and parts of South Los Angeles to Manchester boulevard.

The adjoining Los Angeles area is the largest field of applicants of any in the 14 other districts. A total of 139 candidates and incumbents filed for Los Angeles council seats, board of education members and court offices.

Those in the Los Angeles council race from the nearby district are, in addition to Buyer, Wilder W. Hartley, Edward Kosin, Clarence E. Harrison, Benjamin M. Bendat and Assemblyman Fred A. Reeves, all of San Pedro; W. A. Gallagher, J. C. Holland, Leonard R. Davidson, William H. Wilson and Ben Wood.

Roy J. Becker of San Pedro is one of the three incumbent members of the Los Angeles city council who are seeking re-election. The others are Gertrude H. Rounsaville and Lawrence Larrabee. Thirty others are in the campaign. Becker is running as an independent candidate and his re-election is being widely predicted. All qualified voters in Torrance are eligible to participate in the school board election.

14-Year-Old Schoolboy Knows His Chipmunks

Writes 187-Page Treatise as Part of Science Study
It is highly doubtful if there is anyone in this city or Southern California, for that matter—who knows as much about chipmunks as a 14-year-old local schoolboy. Proof of his knowledge of those delightful little creatures, whose curiosity, nimbleness and intelligence are amazing, was contained in a 187-page typewritten book.

The boy is Frank Whiting, son of Mrs. M. E. Whiting of 1719 Arlington avenue. His book was the result of extensive study and research into "chipmunkiana" as part of his General Science work at Torrance high school.

Frank's excursion into natural history delighted his science instructor, Mrs. Margaret Allen, and Principal Thomas Elson, who has been proudly displaying the boy's book to visitors at the high school. Because of the boy's work's completeness and evidence of many hours of study and painstaking typing, Frank's "incomplete" treatise for the past semester in General Science has been changed to a high mark.

Construction in February is \$82,670
New construction here during February amounted to \$82,670 as compared to \$82,400 for the same month last year, according to the city engineer's office records.

The total new building for the first two months this year was \$186,650 as against \$184,350 for January and February of 1938. Eleven new homes, costing \$27,000, were started in Torrance last month, as compared to 12 begun in January. The building records also included seven private garages, \$1,800; eight oil derricks, \$40,000 (14 were erected in January); 17 oil tanks, \$11,340, and a 1000 barn.

Building permits were issued during the past week: Century Petroleum company, steel derrick at 1908 235th, \$5,000; Witter Santa Fe Springs Oil Syndicate, wood derrick at 1944 237th, \$5,000; C.C.M.O., repairs to wooden derrick west of Cedar and north of Sepulveda, \$1,800, and Long Beach Drilling company, derrick at 1970 235th, \$5,000.

R. L. Erickson of San Pedro for a four-room frame residence and double garage at 24235 Los Codon for WALTERIA, \$2,550, and Fred Blake, city gardener residing at 1264 Torrance boulevard, for a five-room frame and stucco house at 814 Madrid, \$2,200.

Hermosan Demands Jury Trial Here

Charged with drunk driving on Torrance boulevard last Sunday night, Elmer Stubberfeld, 24, of Hermosa Beach, pled not guilty when arraigned Monday before City Judge Robert Lessing. He demanded a jury trial. This was held Monday morning, March 6, and Stubberfeld was released on his own recognizance.

COUNCIL TRANSACTS MUCH BUSINESS TUESDAY NIGHT

A considerable amount of civic business was transacted by the city council Tuesday night. Among the matters acted upon were:

APPROVE SUBSIDY . . . Notified that the Chamber of Commerce would appropriate \$10 monthly for the Walters Commission board who are seeking reimbursement by the city council approved the subsidy whereby entertainers will be secured for monthly programs in Waltersia and approved bills are submitted.

PURCHASE LOT . . . A 26-foot lot, owned by P. S. Venable, adjoining the Waltersia fire station, was purchased for \$200. The hose drying rack can only be reached by going on Venable's property now, the council decided. It was a camera here and McCull said that he believed it would shortly be re-opened.

AWAITING ACTION . . . Although the P. E.'s chief engineer has recommended to his company that it share the cost of installing a new storm drain culvert under P. E. tracks on El Prado beyond the viaduct, no word has been received as yet from the traction company that it will pay a portion of the expense, Leonard Young, acting city engineer, reported.

BANK TELLER TAKES LIFE IN RIVIERA

Despondent because of ill health and because his father, who lives in Michigan, was about to re-marry less than a year after his mother died, Warren C. Wright, 35-year-old Hollywood bank teller, committed suicide shortly after noon Monday about a half-mile south of the Hollywood Riviera clubhouse, according to police reports.

Wright, father of a three-week-old baby, left no farewell note to explain his act of firing a shot from a .38-caliber Colt revolver thru his right temple. Investigation revealed that his accounts at a bank at Melrose and Bronson avenues in Hollywood were in the order of hundreds of dollars. When he failed to appear for work Monday morning, his superior at the bank phoned Mrs. Margaret Wright and was informed that he had left for his job.

Then he got out and walked around to the passenger's side of the sedan, sat on the running board and shot himself. He died instantly, it is believed. The gun was owned by the bank, Stroh said, being one that the institution provides for tellers at their window.

Wright was notified by bank officials. Later she said that her husband had been in ill health for many weeks and he had been advised by his doctor to get his father was intending to re-marry.

Funeral service for Mr. Wright was held this afternoon at Forest Hill funeral home, 7141 Frank Porter of this city officiating and Stone and Myers in charge of the arrangements.

Promotions Made in Rolling Mill Here

Resignation of C. W. Parks as general foreman of the rolling mill finishing and shipping department at the Torrance plant of Columbia Steel Company has made possible a number of promotions for other members of the rolling mill, it was announced today by E. M. Barber, general superintendent of the local plant.

James S. Christie succeeds Parks as general foreman of the finishing and shipping department; Paul H. Jones advances to the post of general foreman of the rolling mill; and William J. Cox becomes chief clerk in the rolling mill department, replacing Jones. All the above staff changes became effective March 7, according to Barber.

The afternoon session, attended mostly by high school students, was held at the Chamber of Commerce yesterday. Full details concerning the positions, pay and qualifications may be obtained from Secretary J. H. Milmeister at the chamber office.

Applications can be obtained and must be filed in person from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m., March 6 and 7 at the office of the State Division of Forestry in Orange.

Prior Action Saves El Prado's Trees From New Attack

If a decision, made Jan. 24 by the city council to solve the constantly recurring problem of tree removals, had not been recalled Wednesday morning, two further acres of El Prado's towering eucalyptus trees would by now have been laid low. By a four-to-one vote, the council decided Tuesday night to grant John B. Young's third request that the trees in front of his property at 1531 El Prado be cut down.

Twelve hours later A. H. Bartlett and City Councilman Tom McGuire, who had bitterly opposed the destruction of any more trees, discovered that the minutes of the council session 35 days' previous had recorded a unanimously adopted motion to refer further tree removal requests to the City Planning Commission.

"Unless that motion is rescinded at the next meeting of the city council, the action taken Tuesday night granting Young's request will have to be held up," Bartlett said. McGuire declared that the Planning Commission, of which McGuire is chairman, will make a commitment on a general policy regarding tree matters in the near future.

Predicts Denuded City
After hearing Young's third communication regarding the "damage" being wrought to his El Prado property by the 28-year-old eucalyptus, City Councilman George V. Powell moved that the requested removal of trees be granted. Councilman James Hitecock and seconded the motion and it was adopted over Councilman McGuire's vigorous "No."

"I was under the impression that we had referred this El Prado tree problem to the Planning Commission for their recommendation several weeks ago," McGuire pointed out then. "I can't see this attempt to remove these trees one or two at a time from the city and El Prado. You'll ruin the rest of that beautiful street if you continue stubbing away at its trees. There's nothing wrong with the destruction unless they are dead and those eucalyptus certainly are not that. One of these days we'll wake up to find our city practically a denuded city."

"I think Mr. Young purchased his lot on El Prado knowing that the trees were on it. They didn't spring up overnight on him. He refers to the fact that some residents on El Prado have had eucalyptus trees removed from their property. I know that and some of these removals were done without the knowledge of the council and some against the wishes of the residents themselves," McGuire was continuing when Powell interrupted him by saying "well, that's over now, the council has acted."

Says Home Is Cold
"I object to being interrupted this way, Mr. Powell," McGuire retorted. "You've had your say and now I believe I was speaking."

"Well, if you don't like it, you can lump it," Powell retorted and there was no further comment on the tree situation.

Young's letter stated he was renewing his request of Jan. 10 and 24 that two eucalyptus trees on his property removed. He had stated "several branches (Continued on Page 2-A)

Carl Hyde Still Shows Form as C. C. Secretary Even at Capital

Eight years have passed since Carl H. Hyde was secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce but last week-end he proved to world wide fame the same booster for this city as he was when he was helping put "Torrance on the map" with civic projects that have proven their worth in the passage of time.

That Hyde, now director of the State Department of Employment and a resident of Sacramento, reverted back to his chamber of commerce days (from 1924 to 1931) was reported by "Col." Edwin A. Bird, manager of the Torrance office of the Department of Employment.

Bird attended a meeting of all department managers at the state capital which Hyde called to account the field force with new and potential administrative problems in their work.

"During one of our sessions we were considering the problems as related to various communities and Hyde devoted 15 or 20 minutes to a review of Torrance's history, development and employment problems as he remembered them," Bird said on his return Monday. "He told us he could think of no better example of the passage of time than Torrance and, because local problems pertaining to industrial employment are typical of any expanding manufacturing center, he proceeded to give the state managers an interesting 'background' report about Torrance."

"I told him afterwards that I was going to tell his former 'home-folks' what a fine presentation he made of their town and he said he couldn't do Torrance justice in the short time he had to give the subject," Bird concluded.

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